BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5773 APRIL 28, 1978
CHRIS KERN

THIS WEEK NO. 17

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS----------.

NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONTROVERSIAL PLAN TO SELL ADVANCED MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA RAN INTO TROUBLE THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS. A NUMBER OF PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -- MOST OF THEM CONSIDERED FRIENDS OF ISRAEL -- EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PACKAGE ARRANGEMENT, ESPECIALLY THE PROPOSAL TO SUPPLY F-15 JETS TO SAUDI ARABIA. THE PLAN'S CRITICS -- LIKE SENATOR FRANK CHURCH OF IDAHO -- URGED MR. CARTER TO DIVIDE THE PACKAGE UP AND LET CONGRESS CONSIDER EACH PART SEPARATELY.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CHURCH

"WITHOUT PASSING JUDGMENT NOW ON THE MERITS OF THE SEPARATE SALES, BUT FOR VERY GOOD PROCEDURAL REASONS, I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO PRESENT THESE THREE SALES ON THE CONDITION THAT EITHER ALL THREE BE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED. I THINK THAT IS AN INVITATION FOR A REJECTION AND OUGHT TO BE AVOIDED. A CONFRONTATION OF THAT KIND CAN BE AVOIDED AND, IN MY VIEW, SHOULD BE AVOIDED."

NARR:

OPPONENTS OF THE PLAN MAKE THREE BASIC CRITICISMS OF THE PACKAGE. THEY SAY IT IS WRONG TO LINK THE THREE SALES SINCE AMERICAN LAW REQUIRES THAT CONGRESS CONSIDER ALL WEAPONS SALES SEPARATELY. THEY ARGUE THAT THIS IS A BAD TIME TO SELL WARPLANES TO POTENTIAL MIDDLE EAST BELLIGERENTS BECAUSE THE ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS ARE STILL STALLED. AND THEY SAY THE SALE OF ADVANCED

JETS TO SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT THREATEN ISRAELI SECURITY, DESPITE SAUDI ASSURANCES THAT THE PLANES WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

BUT WHILE MR. CARTER WAS WILLING TO BRIEFLY DELAY THE FORMAL SUBMISSION OF THE PACKAGE TO CONGRESS, HIS SPOKESMAN SAID ANY SIGNIFICANT DELAY WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS REFUSING TO HONOR ITS COMMITTMENTS AND HE REAFFIRMED THE ADMINISTRATION'S REFUSAL TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT BEING OFFERED TO EACH COUNTRY. IN A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE, MR. CARTER HIMSELF MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW THE WHOLE DEAL IF CONGRESS VETOES ANY PART OF IT.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CARTER

"THIS PACKAGE WILL BE PRESENTED IN INDIVIDUAL COMPONENT PARTS TO THE CONGRESS; IT'S THE ONLY LEGAL WAY TO DO IT. THE CONGRESS WILL ACT ON THOSE MAJOR SALES PROPOSALS INDIVIDUALLY -- TO ISRAEL, TO EGYPT AND TO SAUDI ARABIA. EACH ONE IS IMPORTANT. EACH ONE COMPLETES A COMMITMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY EITHER ME OR EVEN, IN THE CASE OF THE SAUDIS AND ISRAEL, OUR PREDECESSORS FOR THESE SALES. I LOOK UPON THEM AS A PACKAGE AND, IF THE CONGRESS SHOULD ACCEPT A PORTION AND REJECT ANOTHER, THEN MY INTENT IS TO WITHDRAW THE SALES PROPOSAL ALTOGETHER. . . . MY DEEP BELIEF IS THAT SINCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST OUR PREEMINENT CONSIDERATION IS THE LONG RANGE, AND PERMANENT, SECURITY AND PEACEFULNESS FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, . . . TO TREAT MODERATE ARABS WITH FAIRNESS AND WITH FRIENDSHIP, AND TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COMMITMENT TO US IN TURN, IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR OWN COUNTRY AND OF ISRAEL."

NARR:

THE PROSPECTS FOR MR. CARTER'S PROPOSAL WERE CLOUDED EVEN FURTHER BY ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, WHO WAS VISITING THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK. MR. DAYAN FIRST INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD RATHER NOT GET ANY PLANES AT ALL THAN SEE THE CARTER PACKAGE DEAL GO THROUGH. BUT AFTER MEETING WITH MR. VANCE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- AND REPORTING THAT THE PLANE SALES

WERE NOT DISCUSSED -- MR. DAYAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING ITS AIRCRAFT REQUEST.

-0-

NARR:

IT HAS BEEN TWELVE YEARS NOW SINCE THE UNITED NATIONS VOTED TO END SOUTH AFRICA'S MANDATE OVER THE TERRITORY OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA, NOW GENERALLY KNOWN AS NAMIBIA. IN THE LAST YEAR, FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES -- BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND WEST GERMANY -- HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. THIS WEEK -- JUST AS THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS BEGINNING A SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA -- SOUTH AFRICA ASSENTED. (OPT) FOREIGN MINISTER ROELOF BOTHA, WHO WAS REPRESENTING THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT AT THE SPECIAL SESSION, SAID THE DECISION WAS INTENDED TO FINALLY RESOLVE THE LONG-RUNNING DISPUTE.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BOTHA

(OPT) "WE'VE ACCEPTED THOSE PROPOSALS AND, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS BRINGS TO AN END THE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE. THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WILL PROBABLY NOT AGREE WITH ME, BUT THIS IS OUR POINT OF VIEW." (END OPT)

NARR:

REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT VARIED. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNITED STATES CALLED IT "AN EXTRAORDINARILY STATESMANLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE STEP." UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM CALLED IT A "POSITIVE" DEVELOPMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER SITEKE NWALE OF ZAMBIA, WHICH IS ONE OF THE SO-CALLED "FRONT-LINE" BLACK STATES THAT OPPOSES SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL POLICIES, SAID THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT "SHOULD BE STUDIED AND THOROUGHLY ASSESSED." THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM THE

GUERRILLA GROUP KNOWN AS "SWAPO" -- THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION -- BUT WESTERN DIPLOMATS AT THE UNITED NATIONS TOLD OUR CORRESPONDENT THEY WERE SURE THAT SWAPO WILL AGREE TO THE NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT.

THE WESTERN PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE END OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN NAMIBIA AND THE GUERRILLAS, FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TROOPS THERE AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY A UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AND FOR FREE ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

-0-

NARR:

THE FATE OF ITALY'S KIDNAPPED FORMER PRIME MINISTER, ALDO MORO, REMAINED UNKNOWN ALL WEEK -- BUT THERE WAS PLENTY OF GRIM EVIDENCE OF THE RED BRIGADE TERRORISTS WHO ARE HOLDING HIM HOSTAGE. THE LEFTIST GUERRILLAS SENT WORD TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WOULD CARRY OUT THEIR REPEATED THREATS TO KILL MR. MORO UNLESS 13 JAILED TERRORISTS WERE RELEASED. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REJECTED THE DEMAND WITHOUT CONSIDERATION. THEN, IN AN APPARENT ESCALATION OF THEIR PRESSURE TACTICS, TERRORIST GUNMEN SHOT AND WOUNDED A FIAT AUTOMOBILE EXECUTIVE IN TURIN AND A CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICIAN IN ROME. A CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC SPOKESMAN RESPONDED: "THEY CANNOT COMPETE ON THE DEMOCRATIC LEVEL, SO THEY SHOOT US FROM BEHIND." U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM APPEALED AGAIN FOR MR. MORO'S SAFE RELEASE, AS DID POPE PAUL. "HOW CAN WE IGNORE THE KIDNAPPING," THE POPE SAID, "WITHOUT BEING IN FEAR AND TREPIDATION FOR THE STABILITY OF OUR MODERN WORLD."

NARR:

THERE WERE NEW SIGNS OF PROGRESS THIS WEEK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION -- THOUGH NEITHER SIDE WAS EXPLICIT ABOUT THE DETAILS. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FROM A TRIP THAT TOOK HIM TO AFRICA AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND REPORTED THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- VANCE

"IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE MARK OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE NEGOTIATION IS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF ONE GETS INTO THE DETAIL IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF MATTERS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION, IT IS REGARDED BY THEM AS A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE RATHER THAN A SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. I DO NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO JEOPARDIZE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON BETWEEN US, AND, THEREFORE, I'M GOING TO STICK TO WHAT I'VE SAID: WHICH IS, IN GENERAL, THAT THE TALKS WERE USEFUL AND THAT WE MADE SOME PROGRESS."

NARR:

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MADE UNUSUAL EFFORTS TO KEEP TOO MANY DETAILS OF THE MOSCOW TALKS FROM LEAKING OUT. STATE DEPARTMENT AIDES WERE ORDERED TO BE DISCREET, AND REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT AN EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO PERSUADE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REFRAIN FROM REVEALING WHAT THEY LEARNED IN ADMINISTRATION BRIEFINGS. BUT OUR CORRESPONDENT REPORTED A FEW DETAILS. HE SAID CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN PREVENTING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT FROM BEING CIRCUMVENTED, AND REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS RELAXED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSFER OF THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. BUT HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE SOVIET OPPOSITION TO A LIMITATION ON ITS DEPLOYMENT OF THE SO-CALLED "BACKFIRE" BOMBER -- OR IN WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE THAT SUCH LIMITS MUST BE PART OF A NEW SALT AGREEMENT.

IN MOSCOW -- IN A SPEECH TO A YOUTH CONGRESS -- SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV ECHOED SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S OPTIMISM, AND SAID THAT WITH "SENSIBLE AND REALISTIC COMPROMISE," A NEW SALT AGREEMENT CAN BE DRAFTED. BUT HE WENT EVEN FURTHER THAN THAT. HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION IS WILLING TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO POSTPONE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB -- WHICH KILLS PEOPLE WITH RADIATION BUT HAS A MINIMUM BLAST EFFECT -- BY NOT MANUFACTURING NEUTRON BOMBS OF ITS OWN. IN WASHINGTON, MR. CARTER SAID THE BREZHNEV OFFER HAD "NO SIGNIFICANCE" SINCE THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE SOVIETS WOULD NEED THE BOMB IN EUROPE.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CARTER

"PRESIDENT BREZHNEV KNOWS THAT THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS DESIGNED TO BE USED AGAINST MASSIVE AND, PERHAPS, OVERWHELMING TANK FORCES IN THE WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AREA. THE SOVIETS, OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, HAVE GREATLY BUILT UP THEIR TANK FORCES AND OTHERS STRONGER THAN HAVE THE NATO ALLIES. THE NEUTRON WEAPONS ARE DESIGNED TO EQUALIZE THAT INEQUALITY, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER STEPS THAT OUR COUNTRY IS NOW TAKING. THE SOVIETS HAVE NO USE FOR NEUTRON WEAPONS. SO THE OFFER BY BREZHNEV TO REFRAIN FROM BUILDING THE NEUTRON WEAPONS HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER. AND WE KNOWS THIS."

-0-

NARR:

(OPT) THERE WAS AN APPARENT MILITARY COUP THIS WEEK IN AFGANISTAN, AND KABUL RADIO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT MOHAMMED DAOUD AND HIS GOVERNMENT WERE, IN THE WORDS OF THE RADIO, "WIPED OUT COMPLETELY." THERE WAS NO WORD FROM KABUL ABOUT WHETHER MR. DAOUD WAS DEAD OR ALIVE. THE BROADCASTS SAID A REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL HEADED BY GENERAL ABDUL KHADER HAD TAKEN POWER, AND CLAIMED THAT IT HAD PUT AN END TO "IMPERIALIST TYRANNY, DESPOTISM AND POWER OF THE FAMILY." THERE WERE REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL CITY, AND SEVERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS -- INCLUDING THE FRENCH

Page missing

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ----------,WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS ON "THIS WEEK."

-0-

JS/RCS/PY